[Translation]

Telephone Rent

1012. SHRIMATI KETAKI DEVI SINGH :
KUMARI UMA BHARATI :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal to hike the bi-monthly telephone rent or the rates of telephone calls is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) There is no such proposal.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

[English]

Fault Repair Facility in Shakti Nagar Exchange

1013. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the measures taken by the Government to improve the functioning of fault repair service in the Shakti Nagar Telephone Exchange in Delhi where telephone fault complaints are not attended for several days;

(b) whether any action has been taken against the officers responsible for dereliction of duty; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Following steps have been taken for improving the functioning of Fault repair service at Shakti Nagar Telephone exchange in Delhi :-

(i) FRS system is computerised.

(ii) Auto testing of faults booked has been introduced.

(b) There has been no intentional delay by any officer in attending to faults. Delay in rectification, however, occurs in case of cable thefts and their breakdowns. The monitoring of fault rectification process is done upto the highest level.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Shops in Post Offices

1014. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Posts has taken a policy decision for opening of shops within the precincts of Post Offices;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) the annual income likely to accrue to the Government as a result thereof;

(d) the number of shops opened so far and the locations thereof;

(e) whether more such shops are proposed to be opened in future; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) Details of the scheme are given in the enclosed *statement*-I

(c) Annual income of approximately Rs. 1654188 will accrue to the Govt. from post shops already opened so far.

(d) 26 Post Shops have been opened so far. The details are given in enclosed statement-II

(e) and (f) More Post shops may be opened progressively subject to fulfilment of criteria as defined in enclosed *statement*-I

Statement-I

Details of the Scheme for Post Shop

(1) Post shops can be opened in post offices functioning in Departmental buildings where adequate space is available.

(2) Proposals/tenders are invited from members of the public for opening such post shops. These are examined by a committee comprising Chief Post Master General, Circle Internal Financial Adviser and Supdt. Engineer (Civil).

(3) All things being equal, the highest bid in terms of remuneration offered in return for opening the post shop is accepted.

(4) The expenditure for erection of any counter etc. for operating the post shop is to be borne by the selected applicant.

(5) The post shop functions during office hours of the post office.

Statement-II

S.No.	Circle	Location	No. of Post Shops
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Warangal Head Post Office.	2
2.	Assam	Guwahati G.P.O.	1
3.	Delhi	Parliament Street H.O. New Delhi-1	2